IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A message exchange ~~for receiving and storing spoken messages and transmitting these messages to one or more subscribers, to whom the messages are addressed, in a public switched telephone network, to which the message exchange is~~ connected to a public switched telephone network including a plurality of subscribers, ~~wherein the message exchange comprises~~ comprising:

an address module ~~in order~~ configured to store a plurality of lists with subscriber identifications, ~~the lists~~ each list being assigned~~, in each case,~~ to at least one ~~subscriber in the telephone network~~ of the subscribers, ~~and, in the address module, certain subscriber identifications in a list of a subscriber being combined into a group~~ wherein at least two of the lists include a common group identification;

a receiving module ~~in order~~ configured to receive ~~the messages~~ a spoken message from one of the subscribers in the telephone network via the telephone network, the one of the subscribers being a transmitting subscriber, and to store ~~them, in each case, together~~ the spoken message with an identification of the transmitting subscriber ~~who has placed the message~~;

a speech recognition module~~, which makes it possible for a~~ configured to enable the transmitting subscriber to ~~determine,~~ designate by means of spoken language[[,]] at least one of the other subscribers ~~and/or groups of subscribers~~ as an addressee to whom [[a]] the spoken message is ~~supposed to be~~ addressed;

a transmission module ~~in order~~ configured to transmit ~~stored messages,~~ the stored message by means of an automatic call[[,]] to the ~~determined subscribers and/or groups of~~

~~subscribers~~ addressee, and to inquiry if a reply is to be sent from the addressee to the transmitting subscriber; and

a reply module ~~for receiving and storing replies of a~~ configured to receive and to store the reply from the ~~subscriber to whom messages are transmitted~~ addressee.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The message exchange according to claim ~~27~~ 19, wherein the speech recognition module ~~makes it possible for a~~ is configured to enable the transmitting subscriber to create and administer ~~the~~ at least one of the lists by means of spoken language.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The message exchange according to claim ~~27~~ 19, wherein [[a]] each subscriber identification ~~comprises the~~ includes a name of ~~the respective subscriber~~ one of the subscribers.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The message exchange according to claim ~~27~~ 19, wherein [[a]] each subscriber identification ~~comprises the~~ includes a call number of ~~the respective subscriber~~ one of the subscribers.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The message exchange according to claim ~~27~~ 19, wherein ~~certain~~ at least one of the subscriber identifications ~~are~~ is stored as a voice ~~signals~~ signal.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The message exchange according to claim ~~27~~ 19, ~~wherein the message exchange comprises~~ further comprising:

at least one tariff table, ~~which makes it possible for~~ wherein the transmission module refers to the at least one tariff table to transmit ~~certain~~ messages at times having economical tariffs.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The message exchange according to claim ~~27~~ 19, ~~wherein the message exchange comprises~~ further comprising:

a table with statistical information on the traffic load in the telephone network, ~~which makes it possible for~~ wherein the transmission module refers to the table to transmit ~~certain~~ messages at times of low traffic load.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The message exchange according to claim ~~27~~ 19, wherein the reply module ~~can~~ is configured to receive a reply from the addressee, and to store and transmit[[,]] the reply to ~~the addressed subscribers, messages from a~~ at least the transmitting subscriber ~~to whom messages were sent, which messages can be addressed to a group of subscribers~~.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The message exchange according claim ~~27~~ 19, wherein ~~a list also~~ at least one of the lists contains access rights.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method of ~~receiving and storing~~ handling spoken messages~~, and transmitting these messages to one or more subscribers~~ in a public switched telephone network having a plurality of subscribers, the method comprising[[;]]:

storing a plurality of lists, with subscriber identifications, in a message exchange connected to the telephone network, ~~the lists~~ each list being assigned~~, in each case,~~ to at least one ~~subscriber in the telephone network~~ of the subscribers, ~~and certain subscriber identifications in a list of a subscriber being combined in a group~~ wherein at least two of the lists includes a common group identification;

receiving[[,]] in the message exchange~~, messages of subscribers~~ a spoken message from one of the subscribers in the public switched telephone network via the ~~said~~ public switched telephone network ~~and~~, wherein the one of the subscribers is a transmitting subscriber;

storing~~, in each case, together with~~ the spoken message and an identification of the transmitting subscriber~~, who has given the message, subscriber's address messages to subscribers and/or groups of subscribers by~~;

designating to the message exchange ~~the respective subscribers or groups of subscribers~~ at least one of the other subscribers as an addressee by means of spoken language;

identifying[[,]] an address of the addressee by use of a speech recognition module and at least one of the plurality of lists~~, the list of the respective subscriber, the said subscribers and/or groups of subscribers designated by the subscriber~~;

transmitting[[,]] by means of an automatic call with the message exchange[[,]] the ~~stored messages~~ spoken message to the ~~identified subscribers and/or groups of subscribers~~ addressee; [[and]]

inquiring the addressee to determine if a reply is to be sent to the transmitting subscriber; and

receiving and storing, by means of the message exchange, ~~replies of a~~ the reply from the ~~subscriber, to whom messages were transmitted~~ addressee when the reply to be sent.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~36~~ 28, wherein ~~certain~~ at least one of the subscriber identifications ~~are~~ is stored as a voice ~~signals~~ signal.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The method according to Claim ~~36~~ 28, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

storing status information ~~is stored~~ concerning the transmission of ~~messages to subscribers,~~ the spoken message to the addressee; and

retransmitting ~~messages~~ the spoken message if it is not successfully transmitted ~~can be repeatedly transmitted~~ during a first attempt.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~36~~ 28, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

monitoring at least one tariff table ~~is monitored,~~; and

transmitting ~~certain messages are transmitted to addressed subscribers~~ the spoken message at an economical tariff ~~times~~ time based on monitoring of the at least one tariff table.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~36~~ 28, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

storing statistical information on a [[the]] traffic load in the telephone network ~~is stored~~ in a table[[,]]; and

transmitting ~~certain messages are transmitted to the addressed subscribers~~ the spoken message at ~~times~~ a time of low traffic load based on the stored statistical information.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~36~~ 28, ~~wherein certain messages are transmitted~~, further comprising:

transmitting the spoken message via the Internet.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~36~~ 28, ~~wherein messages~~, further comprising:

receiving the reply from [[a]] the ~~subscriber to whom messages were sent, are received as reply~~ addressee[[,]];

~~stored and transmitted to the addressed subscribers, which messages can be addressed to a group of subscribers~~

storing the reply in the message exchange; and

transmitting the reply to at least the transmitting subscriber.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~36~~ 28, wherein ~~certain subscribers administer~~ the transmitting subscriber administers at least one of the lists by means of spoken language.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A computer-readable data carrier~~, which contains~~ comprising:

~~coded data representing~~ a computer program~~, which makes it possible~~ to ~~control~~ be executed by a processor controlling a message exchange ~~according to claim 27 in such a way that it carries out a method according to claim 36~~ connected to a telephone network having a plurality of subscribers, wherein when said computer program is executed, the message exchange performs steps including,

storing a plurality of lists with subscriber identifications, each list being assigned to at least one of the subscribers, and at least two of the lists including a common group identification,

receiving a spoken message from one of the subscribers via the telephone network, wherein the one of the subscribers is as transmitting subscriber,

storing the spoken message and an identification of the transmitting subscriber;

storing an addressee subscriber identification associated with an addressee provided to the message exchange from the transmitting subscriber by means of spoken language, wherein the addressee is another one of the subscribers or a group of the subscribers;

identifying an address of the addressee based on the addressee subscriber identification by use of a speech recognition module and at least one of the lists;

transmitting by means of an automatic call the spoken message to the addressee;

inquiring the addressee to determine if a reply is to be sent to the transmitting subscriber; and

receiving and storing the reply from the addressee when the reply is to be sent.

Claim 37 (new): The message exchange of claim 19, wherein the addressee is a group of the subscribers associated with the common group identification.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 28, wherein the addressee is a group of the subscribers associated with the common group identification.

Claim 39 (new): The computer-readable data carrier of claim 36, wherein when the addressee is a group of the subscribers, each of the lists associated with individual subscribers of the group includes the common group identification.